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SHERINGHAM

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1925

SHERINGHAM:
BERTRAM A. WATTS
PRINTER



SHERINGHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
The Medical Officer of Health,
For 1925.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The Annual Report of a Medical Officer of Health is required under an order of the Ministry of Health, which outlines the scope, intent and use of the Report.

At the end of each year a memorandum is issued to all Medical Officers of Health setting forth the headings upon which the Report should be framed, and indicates generally the information which should be given.

The Report for 1925 is to be a Survey Report, and is to indicate the nature of the progress made in the area during the preceding 5 years in the improvement in the public health, and the extent and character of the changes made during that period in the Public Health Services of the area, *e.g.*, Housing, Water Supply, Sewerage, Scavenging and Refuse Disposal, Food Inspection, and any other services affecting the environment of the inhabitants.

It is the wish of the Ministry that the Report should be printed and circulated to all Ratepayers who are likely to take an interest in public health matters.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	927
Population in the year 1925	...	...	...	3812
Number of inhabited houses in 1924	...	...	...	1197
" " " in 1925	...	...	...	1243
" families and separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...
Assessable Value	...	...	...	£24,717
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£103
Amount of Poor Law Relief	...	...	...

Physical Features of the District and Character of the Inhabitants.

The Urban District of Sheringham is situated on the North Coast of Norfolk, facing north. Its area in acres is 927. Bounded by the sea on the north and by a low range of wooded hills which fall generally for a mile from the south, it adjoins the Erpingham Rural District on three sides, and has on its outskirts such picturesque places as the Roman Camp, Pretty Corner, and the Village of Upper Sheringham.

During the summer months visitors in abundance resort to Sheringham for the bracing air, fine expanse of sea sand, golf links and scenery.

The population at the Census of 1911 was 3,376.
 " " " " 1901 .. 2,364 :
— an increase of over 1,000 in ten years.

The population is composed of (1) fishermen, (2) those whose business it is to let rooms and tradesmen, and (3) a constantly-increasing class who resort to Sheringham for its natural beauties, its fine golf links, or for its health giving and preserving properties and its bracing air.

As a health resort in the autumn and winter months Sheringham does not meet with the patronage it deserves.

For nervous diseases and breakdowns due to organic disease or the result of overwork, business worries or the excessive stress of modern town life, the air of Sheringham is eminently adapted in the autumn and winter. There is that combination of outdoor and indoor recreation which, in a pure bracing air, cannot fail to be beneficial. The air is cold and necessitates woollen underwear, but it is also pure and dry, while sunshine is abundant. The soil is porous, and after the heaviest rains the roads are dry again in a few hours.

Water Supply.

The water of Sheringham is supplied by the Sheringham Gas & Water Company.

The collecting ground, pumping station, and reservoirs are situated in the Sheringham Woods, about half a mile due south of the Cromer Road. The spot is isolated, and there is no inhabited house in the immediate vicinity.

The water is derived :—

- (a) From springs situated within the collecting ground, and stored in reservoirs.
- (b) From two deep tube wells sunk in the chalk—300 feet approximately. This water is pumped into a reservoir at a higher level to supply, by gravitation, the high-lying parts of the town.

Analysis, both bacteriological and chemical, shows the water to be of excellent quality, both for drinking and also for domestic purposes. It has an average hardness of about 15 degrees. The water may be in contact with lead pipes without fear of lead poisoning.

The collecting ground of the Water Company is inspected at intervals, and any deficiency brought to the notice of the Manager.

The quantity of water obtained is sufficient for all purposes during dry weather.

The quantity obtained from the springs is naturally less in summer and dry weather. The level of the water in the wells varies little, however much it is pumped; and has never showed any signs of failing.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Urban District is sewered throughout with modern sewers, which function satisfactorily.

The outfall is well below ordinary low-water mark in the North Sea, and has been recently lengthened.

Closet Accommodation.—The houses in Sheringham are supplied with water-closets of modern pattern.

All sewers are flushed once a week in winter, and twice a week in summer.

Dead ends are flushed from the water-cart in addition.

Scavenging.

Dust-bins are emptied twice weekly by the Council's cart. The house refuse is conveyed to a tip at Kelling.

Sanitary Inspection in the District.

(a) Number of inspections made by the Sanitary			
Inspector during the year	...	...	102
(b) Number of Notices served during the year :—			
Statutory Notices	...	...	11
Informal Notices	...	...	101
(c) Result of the service of such notices :—			
All the nuisances were abated.			

Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-Laws.

There is no common Lodging-House or Offensive Trade in Sheringham.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the water supply of the Elementary Schools is entirely satisfactory.

In case of a threatened epidemic of notifiable infectious disease the schools are at once visited, the scholars inspected, and endeavour made to exclude infective children.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There is no hospital for Tuberculosis, Maternity, or Children.

The Urban Council have made arrangements with the Erpingham Rural and North Walsham Joint Isolation Hospital, and are now one-third partners in their Isolation Hospital at Roughton.

So far, only one infectious case from Sheringham has been admitted to the hospital.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases—Motor Car.

(b) For non-infectious cases—the Branch of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade at Cromer have a Motor Ambulance to be used for Sheringham cases.

There is no Clinic or Treatment Centre in the District.

Public Health Officers to the Local Authority :—

The Staff is composed of the Medical Officer of Health, J. E. Linnell, B.A., M.B., B.C.Cantab., D.P.H., R.C.P. & S. London ; and Mr. F. Hall Smith, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., P.A.S.I., M.R.San.Inst., Engineer and Surveyor.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) A District Nurse is provided by the Sheringham Social Service League.

(b) For infectious diseases.—These will in future be removed to hospital.

Midwives.

No Midwife is supplied or subsidised by the Council. Approximately 2 Midwives practise in Sheringham.

Chemical Work.

Pathological Examinations in cases of suspected Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever are made at the public expense by the County Laboratory at Norwich.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions in the Area.

1. There is no marked shortage of cottages, and no measure is contemplated to meet any shortage which, if it does exist, is as regards out-workers.

2. *Overcrowding*.—I have no complaint of overcrowding during the year.

3. *Fitness of Houses*.—The general standard of housing in the area is good.

Parts of the old fishing village are the reverse—the defects being dampness, low rooms, insufficient floor and window space, which in many cases are aggravated by want of cleanliness on the part of the tenants.

4. *General Action taken with regard to unfit houses*.—Repairs and improvements are effected by Landlords in accordance with the demands of the Urban Council.

All cottages in Sheringham have a good water supply, proper closet accommodation, sanitary dust-bins, which are emptied by the Public Scavenger.

5. *Unhealthy Areas*.—There is no area in Sheringham which can be called an unhealthy area.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	...	...	...	46
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—				
(i.) By the Local Authority	...			0
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	...			34

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	38
---	-----	-----	-----	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	38
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	1
2. Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	10
3. Action under Statutory Notices.	
A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	2
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | | |
|--|--------|---|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | ... | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | — |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ... .. | — |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | — |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | — |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—The milk supply for Sheringham for the greater part is produced in the Rural District of Erpingham.

It is good in quality and adequate in quantity.

(b) *Meat*.—There is one slaughter-house in Sheringham. Otherwise meat is killed in the Erpingham Rural District or is foreign imported meat.

Every meat shop has been inspected, and owners instructed and advised how, as far as possible, to keep meat free from contamination by extraneous dirt.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In 1921 there were 25 cases of notifiable infectious disease.

.. 1922	..	..	11	..	..	..	..
.. 1923	..	..	9	..	..	..	..
.. 1924	..	..	13	..	..	..	..
.. 1925	..	..	8	..	..	..	..

As regards 1925 there were :—

- 5 cases of Pneumonia.
- 1 case of Diphtheria.
- 2 cases of Chicken-Pox.

There has been no case of Malaria, Dysentery, or Trench Fever notified during the last 5 years.

There was 1 case of Encephalitis Lethargica in 1924, and 1 case of ditto in 1923.

No primary vaccinations or revaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

		Cases.	Deaths.	Admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria	...	1	1	0
Pneumonia	...	5	0	0
Chicken-Pox	...	2	0	0
		—	—	—
	Total	8	1	0
		—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
10-15	0	0	1	0	0
20-25	1	1	0	0	0
25-35	2	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	1	0	0

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Births, 1925 :—	Legitimate ...	25	25	50
	Illegitimate ...	1	2	3
				—
		Sum Total		53

Birth Rate, 1921	...	17'61 per 1,000 population.		
„ 1922	...	19'06	„ „	„
„ 1923	...	15'07	„ „	„
„ 1924	...	14'43	„ „	„
„ 1925	...	13'90	„ „	„
England } 1925	...	18'3	„ „	„
& Wales }				

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths :—	...	22	22	44
Death Rate, 1921	...	9'08 per 1,000 population.		
„ 1922	...	12'53	„ „	„
„ 1923	...	12'64	„ „	„
„ 1924	...	11'02	„ „	„
„ 1925	...	11'54	„ „	„
England } 1925	...	12'2	„ „	„
& Wales }				

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth ... 0
Deaths of infants under one year :—

1921	...	62'5 per 1,000 births.		
1922	...	85'71	„ „	„
1923	...	35'75	„ „	„
1924	...	36'36	„ „	„
1925	...	113'21	„ „	„
England } 1925	...	75'0	„ „	„
& Wales }				

		Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.
		5	1	6
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	2
„ „ Whooping-Cough	...	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	1

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) J. E. LINNELL.

SURVEYOR & INSPECTOR'S REPORT for 1925.

BUILDINGS.

Plans approved	...	...	...	...	72
<i>For—</i>					
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	43
Additions to do.	...	...	...	...	20
Alterations	...	...	...	...	1
Shops	...	...	...	...	5
Garages	...	...	...	...	14
Workshops	...	...	...	...	3
Warehouses	...	...	...	...	1
New Roads	...	...	...	...	1
Petrol Pumps and Tanks	...	...	...	...	4
Plans disapproved	...	...	...	...	1
Houses completed	...	...	...	...	46
Additions	..	...	...	...	16
Alterations	..	...	...	...	1
Shops	..	...	...	...	5
Garages	..	...	...	...	79
Workshops	..	...	...	...	2
Warehouse	..	...	...	...	2
Petrol Pumps and Tanks	...	...	...	...	4
Total number of houses in district	...	...	...	...	1,243
Houses commenced, but not completed	...	...	...	...	21
Additions	..	..	..	...	1
Garages	..	..	..	...	3
Shop	..	..	..	...	1
Workshop	..	..	..	...	1
Dilapidated buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Dangerous	..	..	...	...	8
Houses closed	..	..	...	...	2
Obstructive hedges and trees cut back	...	...	...	...	28

SEWERS, DRAINS, AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

New Roads sewered	...	...	...	3
New Drains connected to Sewers	...	...	...	56
„ „ „ to existing drains	...	...	...	10
Drains relaid	...	...	...	1
„ tested and found sound	...	...	...	5
„ blocked and cleared	...	...	...	11
„ repaired	...	...	...	3
New Water-Closets	...	...	...	65
„ Baths	...	...	...	50
Total number of W.C.'s in district	...	...	...	1,360
„ „ of Housemaid's Closets	...	...	...	52

Sewers are flushed once a week in winter and twice a week in summer, and dead ends from Water Cart.

NUISANCES ABATED.

Statutory Notices served (nuisances generally abated on receipt of letter or verbal notice)	...	...	...	11
New Dustbins provided	...	...	...	70
Pigs, Fowls, etc.	...	...	...	24
Manure and offensive matter	...	...	...	8
Houses cleaned and repaired	...	...	...	7
Drains cleaned	...	...	...	11
Fish condemned and destroyed	...	...	...	1

DISINFECTION.

3 Rooms and Bedding.

Registered Milk Sellers	...	16
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	9
Cowkeepers	...	3

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS, Etc.

Bakehouses and Confectioners	...	...	...	6
Laundries	...	...	...	4
Joinery	...	...	...	4
Motors and Cycles	...	...	...	4
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	4
Boatbuilders	...	...	...	2
Tailors	...	...	...	2
Dressmaking and Millinery	...	...	...	8
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	5
Golf Clubs	...	...	...	1
Saddler	...	...	...	1
Cabinet Makers	...	...	...	4
Gasworks	...	...	...	1
Waterworks	...	...	...	1
Total				47

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925 FOR THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF SHERINGHAM
on the administration of the Factory & Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES
(including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances) :—

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	0	0	0
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries) ...	47	3	0
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises) ...	0	0	0
	—	—	—
Total	47	3	0
	—	—	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORK-
PLACES :—

Particulars.	Number of Defects—	
	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—		
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3
Offences under the Factory & Work- shop Acts ...	0	0
	—	—
Total	3	3
	—	—

